

## **ALDOT Traffic Advisories for Mobile and Baldwin County Area**

**MONTGOMERY** – The Alabama Department of Transportation reopened Bankhead Tunnel today at 10 a.m. and is encouraging local Interstate 10 traffic to use the Bankhead Tunnel, sparing the Wallace Tunnel for I-10 through-traffic only.

The Causeway remains closed. ALDOT is assessing the extent of damage. The Causeway consists of U.S. 90/98 and connects Mobile County to Baldwin County, running parallel to I-10. There is confirmed damage on the Tensaw River Bridge along the Causeway, with additional damage assessments continuing. At this time, there is no estimate of when the Causeway will be reponed.

ALDOT at noon was getting no reports of problems along I-65 in Baldwin and Mobile counties. Traffic is heavy around the Wallace Tunnel on I-10 because the tunnel remains limited to one lane eastbound and one lane westbound for pumping operations to keep the tunnel dry.

Alabama transportation officials expect congestion and delays along main routes across southwest Alabama in the coming days, especially in urban areas and along major junctions.

The Cochrane-Africatown USA Bridge remains closed until further notice. ALDOT engineers at noon were still on the bridge conducting inspections and damage assessments. At this point there is some damage noted, but no determination yet of the extent or significance.

The Cochrane Bridge goes over the Mobile River along U.S. 90 and the U.S. 98 Truck Route, providing a connection between I-10 and I-165. It provides a mandatory bypass of the Bankhead Tunnel (U.S. 98) and Wallace Tunnels (Interstate 10) for trucks carrying hazardous material cargo and oversized loads. Hazardous cargo and oversized loads are being rerouted via I-65 and State Highway 59.

The latest travel and road closure information for Alabama roadways is available at the Alabama Department of Transportation's web site at [www.dot.state.al.us](http://www.dot.state.al.us). ALDOT's toll-free phone line – 1-888-588-2848 – is being staffed from 7 a.m. to 10

p.m. daily to provide personal assistance to callers seeking travel and road closure information.

The Department will issue periodic news releases today and throughout the remainder of the week regarding road conditions and transportation infrastructure damage that has been sustained from Hurricane Katrina. News releases also will be posted on the ALDOT web site at [www.dot.state.al.us](http://www.dot.state.al.us).